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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Stendal

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DATE PREPARED 27 December 1951

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 10 November 1951, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse, Stendal (M 53/Y 85), quartered 1,000 to 1,200 troops, most of whom wore black-bordered red epaulets but some wore red-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers were seen practicing with rifles, AT rifles, heavy machine guns and 80-mm mortars. A company of 3 officers and 94 men, who wore gas masks, marched into the billeting area in the following groups:

First platoon. 27 men, including 3 squad leaders with submachine guns, 3 soldiers with one AT rifle each and 21 men with rifles.

Second platoon. Same as the first platoon.

Third platoon. 16 men, including 2 squad leaders with submachine guns, 4 soldiers with two 80-mm mortars and equipment, and 10 men with rifles.

Fourth platoon. 24 men, including 3 squad leaders with submachine guns, 6 soldiers with three heavy machine guns with protective shields and mounted on a wheeled cart, and 15 soldiers with rifles.

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2. A convoy of from 18 to 20 trucks was seen moving through Stendal at 9 p.m. on 2 November. About 8 to 10 trucks, carrying about 200 troops, were seen entering the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse, while the other trucks, loaded with pontoons and beams, were unloaded at the former ration supply depot on Arneburgerstrasse.

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3. A column which moved along Frommhagenerstrasse toward the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse at 10 p.m. on 3 November consisted of 8 T-34/85 tanks, 2 JS-122 SP guns, 4 SU-100 SP guns and 14 trucks. The trucks were occupied by about 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets

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4. About 3,000 to 4,000 troops assembled at the athletic field in Stendal for a ceremony on 7 November. Specifically, 1,500 to 2,000 troops with a band, of platoon strength were at the field by 9 a.m. when 1 colonel, 3 majors,

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10 other officers, 15 uniformed women, and 6 units, each of 5 or 6 officers and about 80 men with black-bordered red epaulets, arrived from the Tauntzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse; and 1 band of about 16 pieces, 1 unit of 25 officers and 10 units, each of several officers and 60 to 80 men, arrived from the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse.

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5. On 12 November, the Tauntzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse quartered 700 to 800 troops. Sentries wore black-bordered red epaulets.

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6. On 17 November, the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse quartered from 1,200 to 1,400 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. A unit of 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying rifles was seen marching from the installation to the drill ground at the Hindenburg Kaserne. It was followed by two telephone sections, each consisting of 12 soldiers with equipment.

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7. On 17 November, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse quartered about 2,000 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. Troops were seen drilling in the barracks yard, while another 200 troops, organized in small groups, received infantry training with small arms in the training area west of the Hindenburg Kaserne.

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8. On 16 November, eight prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns were seen in the northern section of the Borstel airfield installation. Trucks each carrying 15 to 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and some with artillery insignia, left the airfield toward Stendal.

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9. [redacted] the Hindenburg Kaserne [redacted] between 8 and 19 November, the barracks installation was occupied beyond capacity, and the ordnance rooms, supply rooms and classrooms were used as emergency quarters. About 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets were seen drilling in the billeting area on 8 November, while 250 troops with black-bordered red epaulets marched into the installation, coming from the direction of Salzwedel. On 12 November, about 100 troops with red-bordered black epaulets were drilling in the barracks yard while another 240 troops with red-bordered black epaulets received individual training in the operation of machine guns and entrenching tools in the area between the Hindenburg Kaserne and the Stendal-Wittenberge railroad line under the supervision of six officers. A German barracks employee stated that he saw twelve T-34 tanks in the yard of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 16 November.

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10. A convoy of 12 trucks, [redacted] moved into the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on 8 November. Each truck was occupied by 20 to 25 soldiers who wore black-bordered red epaulets.

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[redacted] was occupied beyond capacity. On 15 November, a 35-piece band played about 200 troops with carbines to the railroad station, with three trucks carrying baggage following the troops. When the band returned to the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne, the 200 troops were seen departing toward Magdeburg. Three

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units which arrived at the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne from the Hindenburg Kaserne on 19 November consisted of 60 soldiers each, who wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried carbines.

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11. At 1:30 p.m. on 7 November, from 2,000 to 2,200 troops assembled in an open square in the yard of the Tauntzien Kaserne and were subsequently reviewed by several officers. On 13 November, about 120 troops with black-bordered red epaulets were drilling in the barracks yard, while about 250 troops with black-bordered red epaulets received field training under the supervision of five officers in the area north of the installation. The troops, who were 19 or 20 years of age, subsequently marched back to the Tauntzien Kaserne, followed by sedan [redacted] with three officers. [redacted] the Tauntzien Kaserne was also occupied beyond capacity by about 2,500 troops.

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- * [redacted] Comment. The report contains no new information on the occupation of the Stendal military post. It supplements a report of late October and early November 1951 [redacted] report inasmuch as it corroborates assumptions of the period prior to the 1951 summer training period in regard to the location of an engineer unit in the Hindenburg Kaserne. This unit keeps its equipment in the former ration supply depot on Arneburgerstrasse. [redacted] The identity of the engineer unit concerned cannot be established. The truck [redacted] mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present report belong to headquarters units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and are indicative of the 890th Indep Engr Bn which, however, is fairly definitely believed to be stationed in the Remonte Schule, Gardelegen. [redacted] . It is possible that the engineer unit may be assigned to the Hq Third Shock Army. The ten units from the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne which, according to paragraph 4 of the present report, attended a military ceremony on 7 November may have been components of the 16th Gds (?) Tank Regt and the headquarters and headquarters units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div which are also carried in the barracks installation. [redacted]

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[redacted] . The vehicle [redacted] in the present report belong to the units carried in the barracks installations.